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For realization of the five rural development tasks

Rural economy is the national economy. Rural health and education is the national health and education. You will have to make efforts for ensuring better transport between rural and urban regions as well as among rural regions, for ensuring water supply for drinking and agricultural purpose, for enabling the rural people to be strong and educated and for ensuring development of rural economy. You will also have to make efforts with goodwill in realization of the five rural development tasks as the good sons of the people on whom the people can rely.

Senior General Than Shwe

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From address at the graduation parade of 46th Intake of Defence Services Academy)

Prime Minister enjoys Gita Nandawun music concert

YANGON, 18 March — In honour of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Gita Nandawun music concert was staged at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street here at 7 pm today.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe enjoyed the concert.

Also present at the concert were Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, ministers, the

chief justice, the attorney-general, the Yangon mayor and their wives, deputy ministers and wives, ambassadors and wives, responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Office, maestros, enthusiasts, and guests.

Sponsored by the Myanmar National Development Company Group Ltd and organized by Bogalay Tint Aung and Gitalulin Maung Ko Ko, the concert was staged to commemorate the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

Famous pianists as well as young pianists who won gold medals at piano contests performed their artistic talents at the concert.

Well-known vocalists and young singers will present entertainment to the accompaniment of modern musical instruments as well as ancient musical instruments of Mon and Myanmar. Moreover, visitors can enjoy hearty jokes of comedians.

The concert will take place at the same venue from 19 to 21 March.

MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe enjoy Gita Nandawun music concert at National Theatre.—MNA

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation



General Thura Shwe Mann inspects oil palm cultivation projects in Taninthayi Division

YANGON, 18 March— Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, accompanied by members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin

Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, national entrepreneurs who are implementing

the oil palm growing project in Taninthayi Division and those who wish to carry out oil palm plantation tasks, left here by air at 9.30 am on 15 March.

The General and party were welcomed at

Kawthoung Airport by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Win of Khamaukgyi Station of

Kawthoung Township and departmental officials.

Next, the General and party attended the opening ceremony of Oil Palm Factory of Shwe Oil Palm Co Ltd. The factory which can (See page 16)

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Circulation

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Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 19 March, 2004

Carry out township development work with collective responsibility

Now is the time when the State Peace and Development Council is working day and night for the Union of Myanmar to become a peaceful and developed nation and the entire national people are unitedly and actively lending themselves to all the national development endeavours. In order to raise the living standard of the people residing in all parts of the Union, the government is implementing the border area development plan, the 24-region development plan and the rural development plan as well as building numerous social and economic infrastructures.

All the State-level officials, including the Head of State himself, from time to time tour all the regions throughout the Union so as to make a first-hand study of regional development tasks and render necessary assistance there and then. At such a time like this, township-level authorities and departmental personnel are to try their hardest with innovation, industry and goodwill.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party on 14 March went on a tour of Shwegyin and Nyaunglaybin in Bago Division, inspected the regional development tasks being implemented and fulfilled all the requirements.

In his meeting with members of township peace and development council, departmental personnel and members of social organizations in Nyaunglaybin, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt exhorted them to effectively and speedily carry out township development tasks under collective leadership and with collective responsibility.

Situated on the Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway, Nyaunglaybin enjoys favourable environment for social and economic development. As dams and embankments have been built, the acreage of farmland in this region has remarkably increased. As a result, not only summer paddy and monsoon paddy but also edible oil crops can be grown, thus ensuring self-sufficiency. Shwegyin township was far behind other townships in development due to the lack of regional peace and security. But now, with the prevalence of peace and stability all over the region, fundamental requirements for regional development and higher living standard for the local people can be fully met. As the Shwegyin-Madauk motor road and the Shwegyin-Madauk bridge have been constructed, transport of passengers and goods has become easy and smooth. Moreover, the Shwegyin hydroelectric power project is well under way.

We would like to call upon township-level authorities and departmental personnel to actively and unitedly carry out the development tasks in their respective townships as they play a very fundamental role in the implementation of regional and national development endeavours.



The delegation seen before departure at the airport. (H)

Delegation leaves for Bangkok

YANGON, 18 March — A 24-member delegation headed by Secretary of Plastics Entrepreneurs Association under Myanmar Industrial Producers Association U Tin Htut left by air this morning for Thailand to attend the T-Plas 2004 exhibition in Bangkok. The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials. — MNA

59th Anniversary

Armed Forces Day Objectives

- To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the State's seven-point policy programme
- To crush internal and external destructive elements hindering the stability and progress of the State through people's militia strategy
- To implement border area development tasks and the five rural development tasks hand in hand with the entire people
- To build up a strong and efficient Tatmadaw to uphold 'Our Three Main National Causes'

Minister receives foreign guest

YANGON, 18 March — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Assistant General Manager of tph, The Printers House (P) Ltd International Business Mr Yogesh M Kharbada at the former's office on Theinbyu Road at 12 noon today. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, departmental heads under the ministry and officials. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Mr Yogesh M Kharbada. — MNA

Jade sales earn over 9.1m euros

YANGON, 18 March — The 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium continued this morning for the third day here. Local and foreign gem merchants bought 21 jade lots at 1,086,112 euros through competitive bidding system from 9 am to 5 pm today. A total of 470 jade lots worth 9,171,530 euros were sold from 16 March to today and the sales of jade lots continued this evening.

Twenty-one jade lots were sold at 3,475,791 euros from 5 pm to 10 pm yesterday and a total of 71 jade lots worth 4,827,777 euros were sold yesterday alone.

The sales will continue tomorrow and on 20 March through the tender system and competitive bidding system.

Chairman of the Central Committee for Myanmar Gems Emporium Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein and officials presented certificates of honour to the gem merchants who attended the emporium for 25 years, 20 years, 15 years and 10 years consecutively. — MNA

PRC delegation visits Kandawgyi

YANGON, 18 March — The visiting Chinese writers delegation led by Chairman of the Writers Association of the People's Republic of China Mr Wang Chonglu, accompanied by officials, this morning studied all-round tasks for upgrading Kandawgyi Gardens here. No 4 Military Region Command Commander Col Yan Naing Oo and officials welcomed them. Afterwards, the delegation visited National Museum on Pyay Road. Assistant Director of Department of Cultural Institute U Htay Myint and officials conducted them round the Museum. — MNA



WUSHU ATHLETES HONOURED: A ceremony to honour Wushu athletes who won prizes in international events was held at Padonma sports ground in Yangon on Thursday. Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents a gift of honour to Khaing Khaing Maw who won one gold and one silver in the 7th World Wushu Championship held in Macao in 2003. — NLM

Drugs dealers sentenced

YANGON, 18 March — Acting on information, a combined team made up of members of local intelligence unit, Bago Anti-Drug Squad and Bago Police Station stopped and searched the bus with number plates 4Kha/6281 at Polan checkpoint, the entrance to Bago, on 4 December, 2002. And the authorities seized 10.5 kilos of marijuana in the possession of passenger Soe Nyunt. In connection with the seizure, Bago No 1 Police Station filed Soe Nyunt, son of U Khin Pe of No 15 (B), Zeyathukha Street, Ward 2, Mayangon Township, under Section 15/19(A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. After hearing the case on 29 January 2004, Bago District Court sentenced him to 30 years' imprisonment under Section 19 (A). A similar team, acting on a tip-off, searched the suspect Soe Tun (a) Yu Nwut near Theingyi Market (C) Building on Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Ward 2, Pabedan Township, on 12 June 2003 and seized 0.4184 kilo of marijuana. Pabedan Police Station took action against Soe Tun (a) Yu Nwut, son of U Hla Win of Yanpyay 7th Street, Thakayta Township, under Section 15/19 (A). District court (branch) heard the case and sentenced him to 20 years' imprisonment under Section 19 (A) on 12-1-2004. — MNA

Poppy plantation destroyed

YANGON, 18 March — Members of local intelligence unit and Myanmar Police Force on 21 and 22 February destroyed 5.5 acres of poppy plantation in Kyauklongyi Village in Momeik Township, Shan State (North). A total of 7,181.73 acres of poppy plantation have been destroyed in this poppy cultivation season. MNA



The 5.5 acres of poppy plantation being destroyed by the combined team. — MNA

Kerry criticizes Bush's 'stubborn' Iraq policy

WASHINGTON, 18 March— Democrat John Kerry, marking the first anniversary of the Iraq war, accused President Bush on Wednesday of stubbornly pursuing a failed policy that has weakened the military and driven away allies.

The presumptive Democratic presidential nominee said there was "no end in sight" to the daily dangers faced by US soldiers in Iraq despite Bush's declaration on an aircraft carrier last May of "mission accomplished."

"We are still bogged down in Iraq — and the administration stubbornly holds to failed, unilateral policies that drive ... allies

away," Kerry said in a speech at George Washington University.

"But the answer is not a stubborn pursuit of the same arrogant policies; the answer to failure is not more of the same," he said. "Instead we have to return more effectively to the international community."

Kerry, a decorated Vietnam War veteran who has been hammered by the

Bush campaign for voting against various weapons programmes and \$87 billion in spending to support operations in Iraq, said the US military was more extended than at any time in a generation.

"We are weaker today militarily than we should be, but this administration stubbornly refuses to admit it," Kerry said. "Soldiers in Iraq are paying the price

every day."

Kerry's speech was designed as a counter-balance to Vice President Dick Cheney who was giving a speech in California on Wednesday about the war which began a year ago Saturday. Informed by reporters on his campaign plan that Cheney planned to criticize him, Kerry said: "I'm flattered."

Kerry was joined on stage by former Defence Secretary William Perry, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff John Shalikashvili. Kerry said he would not hesitate to use force when needed in the war of terror.

Internet

Iraq hotel blast kills at least 29, injures 41

BAGHDAD, 17 March— A US military official says only a car bomb could cause the type of destruction seen Wednesday at a Baghdad hotel.

Officials say at least 29 people were killed and 41 others hurt when a car bomb exploded outside the Jabal Lebanon Hotel in central Baghdad. Americans and other foreigners were among those staying at the hotel.

The explosion left a crater eight feet wide and ten feet deep. In addition to the hotel, five smaller, adjacent buildings were badly damaged. Bricks, air conditioners, furniture, wires and other debris was blown hundreds of yards from the hotel.

Residents said they thought a rocket struck the building, but Private First Class Heath Balick with the Army's First Armoured Division said, "no rocket could cause that amount of damage."

The blast shook the nearby Palestine Hotel, where many foreign contractors and journalists are based.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan offered prayers for the victims but said, "Democracy is taking root in Iraq, and there is no turning back."

Internet

Top Iraqi leader wants UN back in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 18 March — Iraq's Shiite leader distanced himself from Iraqis who oppose the return of the United Nations and said he wants the world body to play a role in the country's future, a senior UN official said on Tuesday.

Lakhdar Brahimi, the former Algerian foreign minister, told a news conference that Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani sent a written message through an aide to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan "a few days ago" saying he had nothing to do with negative Press reports from some members of the Iraqi Governing Council.

Brahimi went to Baghdad last month with a UN team to study the feasibility of holding elections before June and to discuss proposals for an interim government when the US-led occupation ends on June 30.

He quoted Sistani as saying, "As I told Mr Brahimi, we do want the UN to play a role in Iraq." The note from Sistani denied he had anything to do with criticism of Brahimi and the United Nations, most of which came from former exile leader Ahmed Chalabi, a member of the Iraqi Governing Council who

is close to the US Defence Department.

But Brahimi said he did not know when he would return to Iraq and was waiting for a formal invitation from both the US-led occupation authorities and the 25-member Governing Council.

The about-face by Chalabi and others is of concern to the United States. US officials in Baghdad and Washington have asked the United Nations to help give legitimacy to an interim Iraqi Government that is to take power by June 30.

Annan, speaking to reporters before Brahimi's news conference, said he had made it clear "we are prepared to go back and assist should they want us to do so and I am waiting for them to let us know."

"I don't think it is so much a credibility problem for the UN as internal politics in Iraq," he added.—MNA/Reuters

Hari Sabarno installed as Indonesian Security Minister

JAKARTA, 18 March— Indonesian Home Affairs Minister Hari Sabarno is officially installed as the new Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Politics and Security Affairs on Tuesday.

Sabarno replaced Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono who resigned from his position last Thursday, to be more concentrate on the campaigning for upcoming presidential election.

Sabarno was appointed by Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri to the post because of his strong military

background and his seniority among the ministers under the Coordinating Ministry of Politics and Security.

But he still hold the post of the Home Affairs Ministry. The installment ceremony was held at the Coordinating Ministry of Politics and Security office.

MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers cut open a locked door in Baghdad, on 17 March, 2004.—INTERNET



A man is rescued from the rubble after a bomb explosion at Mount Lebanon Hotel in central Baghdad on 17 March, 2004.—INTERNET

Zapatero turns down Bush request to keep Spanish troops in Iraq

MADRID, 18 March — Spain's prime minister-elect has rejected an appeal by US President George Bush to keep Spanish troops in Iraq.

Spanish elections winner Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero reiterated that he would keep a pledge to pull his country's troops out of Iraq.

"I will listen to Mr Bush but my position is very clear and very firm," Zapatero told radio Onda Cero. "The occupation (of Iraq) is a fiasco."

Zapatero said on Monday, the day after

his Socialist Party dealt a surprise election defeat to the pro-Bush Popular Party, that he would withdraw Spain's 1,300 troops unless a United Nations force takes over here.

Bush responded by urging US allies to keep their troops in Iraq, as officials in Washington suggested they could propose a new UN resolution that would enable Spanish forces to stay. —Internet

Thailand publishes agro-tourism handbook for visitors

BANGKOK, 18 March— The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) joined hands with the Department of Agricultural Extension and the Department of Agriculture to publish a hand book for agro-tourism for visitors, according to the Thai News Agency Tuesday.

The handbook would provide information on 21 routes of agro-tourism all over the country.

The four-colour handbook would be available in Thai and English version with complete map of each route and full details.

The handbook provides

details on how to access to the tourist sites and mentions the significance of each site as well as the telephone number of the coordinators of the area.

Travellers would know when was the best season to visit the sites, and with the handbook, they could also

learn the way of life of the farmers in different areas and the local agricultural products.

The handbook is now available at TAT's head office and leading bookstores for 95 baht per copy, the agency reported.

MNA/Xinhua

Washington concerned at increasing casualties in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 18 March—The growing number of casualties in Iraq is worrying for President George W Bush, at a time when US troops are suffering an average of between 18-22 attacks a day, according to a report in *The Los Angeles Times* yesterday.

The White House had boasted an alleged drop in the number of attacks by the Iraqi resistance, but in the first two weeks of March alone, the attacks have caused the deaths of 15 US soldiers, the daily stated.

Over the last five days, those attacks have cost the lives of nine of the Pentagon's soldiers, including a member of the National Guard who had only just arrived in that Arab country.

The Bush government had emphasized a reduction in the number of deaths at a point when Iraqi police officers and local officials under US control had become the targets of bomb attacks.

According to reports from the Pentagon, 47 US soldiers died in January—exceeding the December figure of 40—although this figure is far from the record number of 82 fatalities last November.

In February, the figure dropped to 20, a number that Bush used as a positive sign in the face of criticism from Democrats of the war in and occupation of Iraq.

March's casualties include two US civilians who were working with the occupying forces. Iraqi police are investigating the circumstances in which the two US citizens were killed.

This situation calls attention to the

fact that the losses seem to coincide with the rotation and arrival of fresh troops less familiar with the setting.

The US command itself in Baghdad indicated there had been a gradual reduction in the number of deaths, although it stressed that this could be reversed, taking into account that the number of attacks against troops have averaged between 18 and 22 per day for the last few months.

As the first anniversary of the war approaches (this Saturday), the situation in the Arab nation continues to be markedly insecure, particularly for the occupiers.

Internet

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Canada still says no to troops in Iraq

TORONTO, 18 March—Canada, which opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq, said on Wednesday it will not send troops to the country, even if Spain pulls its soldiers out.

Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham told a Press conference in Toronto that Canada would not have a "military presence" in Iraq, but would continue to provide humanitarian aid to help rebuild the country.

"Canada has committed itself to some C\$300 million (\$225 million) for the reconstruction of Iraq," he said. "We are doing our best to make sure the conditions for stability in Iraq are established."

Ottawa refused to contribute troops to the Iraq war because it was not sanctioned by the United Nations. Canada does have about 2,000 soldiers in Afghanistan as part of the NATO-led stabilization force.—Internet

Iraq 'dog bombs' targeting troops

BAGHDAD, 18 March—Bombs hidden in dead dogs are the latest danger facing UK troops in Iraq.

A dog's body was used recently as cover for a radio-controlled device detonated by the roadside in the city of Basra.

Ammunition technical officer Adrian Craddock, of the Royal Logistics Corps (RLC), said "the dog was put on top of it so the device was covered".

Military experts fear that the same tactic could be repeated, with explosive devices hidden inside other animal carcasses, such as goats.

Mr Craddock said: "It's not a common tactic but we have to be aware of it."

Fifty bombs have been found and defused since April by two British four-man disposal teams from the RLC.

Most of them have been uncovered on one of Basra's three main roads.

Many of the devices are set off with

remote controls the bombers improvise from pagers or electronic car key systems.

Bombs usually consist of a metal container filled with ball bearings, nails and plastic explosives.

As well as dead dogs, bombs have been hidden in bin liners, hessian sacks, concrete blocks, drain pipes and roadside ditches—they are then detonated as British patrols pass by.

Captain Wayne Davidson, an RLC ammunition technical officer, said: "The people making these are very skilled at what they do and they go to great lengths to hide the devices."

"This really kicked off in October and the pace has been consistent since then. We can have four or five incidents in a week."

Internet



US Army troops seal off a highway in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad after a roadside bomb attack mortally wounded an American soldier on 14 March, 2004. —INTERNET

Scientific achievements upgrade national power in China

BEIJING, 18 March—President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Lu Yongxiang said here Wednesday that the academic research fulfilled by his fellow scientists had greatly advanced national strength.

At an annual academy conference which started Wednesday morning, Lu, who is a physicist and CAS academician, listed the systematic integration of

of the excellent jobs done in 2003.

The other achievements include China's first low-altitude experimental communication satellite, the world's 14th most powerful superserver, liquefying coal to fuel, frozen roadbed research for the Qinghai-Tibet Railroad, and the most advanced synthetic aperture radar system.

"All the scientific achievements benefit the country in economic, security and social area," Lu said.

In basic scientific research, Lu said, CAS scientists successfully synthesized a new nano material, sketched the precise genome map for rice, produced sequencing of the silkworm genome and the evolutionary tree of early life on the Earth.

Lu also said that his academy was now more adept in commercializing high technology. Last fiscal year, CAS high-tech companies produced a total output of 53.37 billion yuan (6.43 billion US dollars), revenue of 3.4 billion yuan.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqis stand near the scene of a powerful bomb blast at a hotel in central Baghdad on 17 March, 2004. —INTERNET

Average Manila hotel occupancy rate up in January

MANILA, 18 March—The average hotel occupancy rate was up 15.76 per cent to 67.07 per cent in Metro Manila than the 57.94-per-cent level recorded for the same month in 2003, the Philippine Department of Tourism said Wednesday.

During the month, all hotel classes registered positive growth rates with De Luxe hotels recording 15.95 per cent; First Class hotels registering 13.76 per cent, Standard hotels with a growth of 13.99 per cent and Economy hotels growing by 19.09 per cent, the department said in a statement.

According to reports submitted by hotels, the increase could be attributed to the

increase in foreign incentive travels, live-in seminars and group tours which were accommodated in the hotels.

The average length of stay of guests of accredited hotels in Metro Manila for the first month of 2004 was 2.58 nights, 1.98 per cent longer than the average length of stay recorded in January 2003.

The most occupied among the De Luxe hotels

was The Pan Pacific Hotel Manila registering an 83.13 per cent occupancy level, an increase of 12.86 per cent when compared with the 73.66-per-cent level recorded for the same month in 2003, New World Renaissance Hotel came in second with an 82.60-per-cent level, followed by The Westin Philippine Plaza recording an 80.60-per-cent level.—MNA/Xinhua

Philippine coffee exports rose sharply in 2003

MANILA, 18 March—Philippine coffee export volumes increased 76.5 per cent in 2003 despite a global reduction in coffee production, the Philippine Department of Trade and Industry said Wednesday.

About 740 metric tons of processed coffee and green beans were exported in 2003 from 420 tons in 2002, according to data from the department's International Coffee Organization Certifying Agency.

Coffee exports yielded earnings of about 2.02 million US dollars in 2003 from about 1.14 million US dollars in the previous year, the

department said.

Figures from the London-based International Coffee Organization showed that the combined coffee production of 45 countries posted a 14.5-per-cent decline to 102.5 million bags in 2003 from 119.95 million bags in 2002, it said.

The decrease resulted in an increase in world coffee

prices, which benefitted minor exporters like the Philippines, it added.

Philippine Trade Undersecretary Thomas Aquino had said the department expected coffee exports to increase this year due to the high prices and the production cuts by traditional exporters like Brazil.

MNA/Xinhua

Shocked hotel guest escapes Baghdad bomb blast

BAGHDAD, 18 March — Lebanese businessman Jihad Abi Musleh was watching television in a second-floor room of Baghdad's Mount Lebanon Hotel when a powerful car bomb ripped through the building, killing at least 27 people.

"When the explosion took place I was lying on the bed and watching a religious programme on television," Abi Musleh said as he lay on a hospital stretcher, his face swollen and spattered with blood.

"I started frantically racing around the room and then rushed down the stairs," the 53-year-old said. "My brain was numb to the full impact of the explosion."

Abi Musleh said he saw the hotel receptionist and the Lebanese hotel manager in the lobby covered in blood. "Oh God, help me please," the manager moaned.

"The whole street was on fire when I went outside," Abi Musleh said. "The walls of the hotel were demolished."

Buildings on both sides of the street were ablaze, in the ethnically mixed neighbourhood that is home to many relatively poor families along with commercial offices.

Iraqis were clawing at the rubble, searching for survivors. People stranded on upper floors of the hotel screamed

for help.

A huge crater scarred the street outside the building.

Like hundreds of other Arab businessmen, Abi Musleh, a medical equipment supplier from the Lebanese town of Aleh had gone to Iraq in search of lucrative business opportunities.

He said occupancy at the hotel, run by a Lebanese investor, had fallen after a group of expatriate employees of the local cellular telephone company left to move to a rented villa just a day before the blast.

"I was surprised that there were not many people this morning and I heard the company employees had taken a villa," he said. "The hotel was nearly empty without them."

Abi Musleh, whose country has gone through a bloody civil war, said he prayed to God for an end to Iraqis' suffering. "It reminded me of Lebanon," he said.

MNA/Reuters

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Hungarian troops patrol the Iraqi Kerbala on 17 March, 2004. —INTERNET

Argentina, Brazil call for changes in int'l lending rules

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 March — Visiting Argentine President Nestor Kirchner and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva proposed a change in the rules used by international financial organizations to negotiate with developing countries.

Kirchner and Lula presented the proposal in the Declaration on Cooperation for Economic Growth With Equity or the Copacabana Act, which was signed after a meeting between the two presidents.

The Copacabana Act stated that both economic growth and sustained debt had to be taken into account when the fiscal surplus targets are stipulated in negotiations with international financial organizations.

Argentina owes international lending institutions some 84.2 billion US dollars while Brazil's foreign debt amounts to 230 billion dollars. The two leaders asked international lenders to consider as investments rather than expenses the infrastructure investments made by developing countries when the fiscal deficit or surplus is calculated. —MNA/Xinhua

Minister says coalition forces fail to protect Iraqis

GENEVA, 18 March — US-led coalition forces are not doing enough to ensure the security of Iraqis, said a member of Iraq's ruling Governing Council on Tuesday in a rare criticism of the coalition.

Insecurity was a daily reality for Iraqis since the overthrow of president Saddam Hussein nearly a year ago, Minister Abdul Basset Turki told the United Nations.

"Violence and explosions have become the identity of days in Iraq, quite the opposite of what the Iraqis were expecting," he said, according to an English translation of his address.

The Governing Council was set up by the

United States to rule until a planned handover of sovereignty on June 30. Elections are planned before the end of January next year.

Turki told the 53-state UN commission, which is holding its six-week annual session, that coalition forces had responsibilities under international law, including upholding the Geneva Convention, to protect civilians during conflicts. —MNA/Reuters

Oil prices hit fresh one-year highs

LONDON, 18 March — Oil prices hit fresh one-year highs on Tuesday as consumers voiced growing concern over the economic repercussions of higher energy costs.

US light crude rose 36 cents to hit a new 12-month peak at 37.80 US dollars per barrel, extending strong gains. London Brent crude for May delivery was down eight cents at 32.73 US dollars.

US prices have jumped 4.5 per cent this week as suspicions grew that the militant al-Qaeda network was linked to the Madrid bombings last week that killed 201 people.

Supply concerns have gained renewed force as oil cartel OPEC, which controls half the world's crude exports, plans to reduce supplies at a time when Chinese demand is rocketing. Traders are also on edge over the prospects of a summer gasoline supply crunch in the United States, the world's biggest oil consumer, where fuel inventories are running below normal levels.

A survey of analysts expected US Government's Energy Information Administration to report on Wednesday that US crude oil supplies rose 1.2 million barrels last week thanks to strong imports, while gasoline stocks fell 500,000 barrels. Traders remain concerned that refineries could struggle to build inventories for the peak demand summer season as new environmental regulations restrict supply.

MNA/Reuters

British lawmakers criticize govt failure in postwar Iraq

LONDON, 18 March — The British Government severely misjudged what would be required to stabilize and rebuild postwar Iraq, a parliamentary report published on Tuesday concluded.

According to the report by the Commons Defence Select Committee the failure of the government has led the British-controlled area in Iraq to collapsing unnecessarily into looting and violence.

The report, which was particularly scathing of the government's failure to anticipate the total disintegration of Iraqi civil authorities, said the government has failed to prepare its troops properly for the postwar situation in Iraq, stretching the force to its limit and costing it goodwill with Iraqis.

Poor planning, equipment shortages and

communication problems put troops under pressure both during and after the conflict, the report said.

The coalition failed to guard munitions dumps properly following the fall of Baghdad, which "cost Iraqi civilian lives and also provided potential enemies ... with a ready stock of easily accessible weaponry," it added.

The report also acknowledged that Britain's role as a "junior partner" in the US-led coalition hamstrung the government's ability to plan independently for postwar reconstruction in Iraq. —MNA/Xinhua

Portuguese oppsn demands troop pullout from Iraq

LISBON, 18 March — The opposition Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) and the Left Bloc (BI) urged the government Tuesday to immediately bring home the members of the Republican National Guard (GNR) deployed in Iraq.

The BI said it will file a parliamentary motion to ask the government of the Social Democrat Party explains its foreign policy, calling for an immediate return of the 128-member contingent.

The Portuguese Govern-

ment supported the US war on Iraq, allowing US troops to use the Azores base in November 2002, even before Washington announced the failure of diplomatic efforts to disarm Iraq of its alleged weapons of mass destruction.

The Portuguese Government had sent 128 GNR members to Iraq last November despite continued attacks against the coalition forces and harsh criticism prevailing in the country.

MNA/Xinhua

Foreign restaurants do good business in China

BEIJING, 18 March — Five foreign and joint venture restaurants in the top 100 restaurants in China reported an operating revenue of 15.84 billion yuan (1.92 billion US dollars) last year.

Their operating revenue accounted for around one-third of the total of the top 100 restaurants, said the China Cuisine Association (CCA) here. The top 100 restaurants in China earned 52.8 billion yuan (6.38 billion US dollars) in 2003, a year-on-year rise of 31.3 per cent, and contributed to around 8.7 per cent of the industry's total

operating revenue, the CCA source said.

Foreign restaurant companies have increased turnover in China, the CCA source said.

Yum! Brands Inc., running KFC and Pizzahut, released an operating revenue of 9.3 billion yuan (1.12 billion US dollars) in China last year, up 31 per cent over 2002, the CCA said. It added 233 chain

restaurants to its 1,130 in China last year, among which some 1,000 were KFC outlets. Its major rival MacDonald's totalled about 600 chain restaurants by the end of last year.

Both Yum! Brands Inc. and MacDonald's are expanding business from big cities to medium and small cities in China, the CCA source said.

MNA/Xinhua



The Air France Concorde F-BVFB is lifted above a sculpture of a Tyrannosaurus Rex, to its final position on top of the roof of the "Technics Museum" in Sinsheim, southern Germany, on 17 March, 2004 —INTERNET

Iraq under US and allies' occupation

Civilian deaths under US occupation of Iraq

The only superpower should recognize that, far from disturbing, it should contribute to the creation of a peaceful world entitled to both justice and development for all. But, those with the most ability to prevent and remove the threats to peace are the ones causing the war today and as a result innocent civilians like many Iraqi people are becoming the victim of war.



Iraqis, carrying the wounded, run from the explosions in Kerbala, Iraq, on 2 March, 2004.



One person was injured in an explosion in Baqouba, 34 miles northwest of Baghdad, Iraq on 10 March 2004. The attack also knocked the wall down.



An Iraqi man who was injured in an attack recently receives treatment. The attack killed at least 50 people.



Blood and debris are scattered on the road in the Khadimiya district of Baghdad following a powerful explosions recently, in Iraq.



Iraqi deaths up to 17 March 2004

No	Subject	Death toll
1.	Iraqi service personnel	about 10,000
2.	Civilian	10,430
Total		20,430

Injured people are sent to hospital in Baghdad, capital of Iraq following a bomb attack.

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

Nation-building tasks jointly implemented by the Tatmadaw and the people



The view of Tein Bridge being constructed by the Tatmadaw in Mingin Township.



Tatmadaw members in action at a bridge project site on Monywa-Kalewa Road.



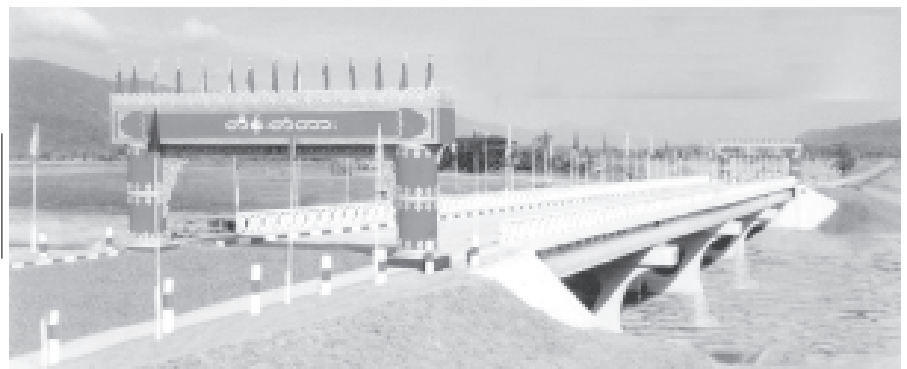
The map showing the location of Tein Bridge.

Bridges built by Tatmadawmen which will be opened soon

No	Bridge	Location	Foot
1.	Myoma	Sagaing Division Kani Monywa-Kalewa Road	540
2.	Tein	Sagaing Division Mingin Township Monywa-Kalewa Road	360



The map showing the location of Myoma Bridge.



The Tein Bridge being built by the Tatmadaw will be opened soon.



The Myoma Bridge in Kani. It will be inaugurated soon.

Bridges constructed by the Tatmadaw

No	Bridge	Location	Foot
1.	Pathaung	Myeik Township Taninthayi Division	810
2.	Dawlan	Hlaingbwe Township Kayin State	1000
3.	Ngamoeyeik	Yangon	
4.	Pahtolon	Yangon Division Kani	660
5.	Lapin	Sagaing Division Kalewa	450
		Sagaing Division	220

The Tatmadaw (Armed Forces) in perpetual service of the people



The Tatmadaw has been discharging national-defence duties. The Tatmadaw has crushed every destructive force violating security and sovereignty of the State. It had to launch the 40-day Kunlong battle, Hopang, Chushwe, Pankok and Panlon battles with the Burma Communist Party (BCP) in the northeast of Myanmar.

The Sisiwan-Tarpang battle launched against the BCP in 1986 was a significant one in the military history of Myanmar. The battle reflected the great cour-

age of Tatmadaw members as they engaged in the battle at risk to their lives.

age of Tatmadaw members as they engaged in the battle at risk to their lives. Sisiwan-Tarpang was named after Sisiwan and Tarpang villages which had once existed in the past. Sisiwan-Tarpang region, a mountain range stretching south to north, was situated in east of Muse, about 8,000 yards from Lashio-Kutkai-Muse Road. In the north of the mountain range were steep hillsides. In the east

over 6,000 yards from the mountain range was Monpaw Valley. Its eastern part was steeper and it was hard to climb up and down. To implement its strategic aim, the BCP tried its utmost to liberate Muse-Namkham region after occupying nearby strategic regions taking a stronghold in Sisiwan-Tarpang area. Their plot to occupy the regions amounted to encroaching upon the security and sovereignty of the State. Therefore, the Tatmadaw Army and Air made combined offensives to thwart the encroachment of the BCP. The Sisiwan-Tarpang Battle cost the BCP dear. The BCP that had harmed the State and the people repeatedly for more than 40 years met with its end.

The Tatmadaw man-



Myanmar soldiers being engaged in Sisiwan-Tarpang battle.

ship to provide food for the Tatmadaw members. Members of Red Cross Society and Auxiliary Fire Brigade also gave moral encouragement to the Tatmadawmen. The people helped the Tatmadawmen to be equipped more with nationalistic spirit by sending to the Tatmadawmen high-spirited poems and words of encouragement written on the packs of foodstuff and

ing in a heavy casualty and great loss of arms and rations of the BCP.

On 25 November, the Tatmadaw (Army) and (Air) and the artillery unit made harmonious attacks on the BCP. In the morning and afternoon, the four PC-7 war planes made air raids on the insurgents. The aircraft went on firing on the insurgents under systematic command and con-

Captain Tint Ko who discharged national defence duty at risk to his life in the battle. Col Khin Maung Win is now serving military duties in Meiktila.

In Meiktila Myanmar *Alin* daily interviewed Col Thura Khin Maung Win about Sisiwan-Tarpang battle.

Q: I learnt that you commanded and controlled the air raids in Sisiwan-Tarpang battle systematically. I would like to know your experiences about the battle.

A: Geographically, Sisiwan-Tarpang region is crucial for domination of Muse and Namkham regions. Under the strategy, the BCP tried to take stronghold in Sisiwan-

An interview with hero pilot

cheroots.

The Tatmadaw made arrangements to reoccupy the camps at which the enemies were taking a foothold. The Tatmadaw members asked for supporting artillery fire and air-to-surface fire. Taking a stronghold in the strategic sites of Sisiwan-Tarpang region, the BCP with a strength of some 8,000 completely dominated all the strategic points by making the most of heavy weapons available. On 17 November, four PC-7 fighter planes of Tatmadaw (Air) arrived in Lashio and launched an air raid on the camps of the BCP. On 22 November, the aircraft went on firing on the main route where the BCP brought in its arms and ammunition and rations, and its headquarters in Monpaw and Lwelan regions, result-

ing in a heavy casualty and great loss of arms and rations of the BCP. On 25 November, the Tatmadaw (Army) and (Air) and the artillery unit made harmonious attacks on the BCP. In the morning and afternoon, the four PC-7 war planes made air raids on the insurgents. The aircraft went on firing on the insurgents under systematic command and con-

The BCP suffered

heavy casualty during the Sisiwan-Tarpang battle that lasted about one month. Thanks to the harmonious cooperation of the ground troops, the air force and the artillery unit along with the support and encouragement of local people, 617 BCP insurgents were killed, 159 surrendered and 172 captured. Col Khin Maung Win was award Thura medal for his bravery, outstanding performance and systematic command and control in the battle. Thura medal was also awarded to

Tarpang region and then to extend its domains to nearby areas. In order to effectively stop the BCP from taking foothold in Sisiwan-Tarpang region, the North-East Command Headquarters, No 33 Light Infantry Division and No 99 Light Infantry Division had to fight against the insurgents with tenacity.

In response to an urgent request for supporting fire, I had to lead four PC-7 fighters and one PC-6 fighter to give a

(See page 9)

The Tatmadaw has been discharging national-defence duties. The Tatmadaw has crushed every destructive force violating security and sovereignty of the State. It had to launch the 40-day Kunlong battle, Hopang, Chushwe, Pankok and Panlon battles with the Burma Communist Party (BCP) in the northeast of Myanmar. The Sisiwan-Tarpang battle launched against the BCP in 1986 was a significant one in the military history of Myanmar. The battle reflected the great courage of Tatmadaw members as they engaged in the battle at risk to their lives.



Sisiwan-Tarpang mountain range.

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

(from page 8)

supporting fire for the Tatmadaw members on 17 November 1986. On 22 November, we made a close air raid on Monpaw, the insur-

taking a nosedive to the ground. Capt Tint Ko was shot dead on the plane by the enemy's bullets, and Capt Myo Myint during his parachute jump.

the Tatmadaw. Since founded, the Tatmadaw's first priority has been to serve the country and the people, and so have been the second and the third. Never has the

able to date in the world are the desperate plight of the peoples whose countries possess weak armed forces. It can also be found frequently the act of some big powers practising hegemonism and interfering in the internal affairs of small nations.

Myanmar also needs to have a modern and efficient Tatmadaw capable of reacting such attempts should the independence and sovereignty of the country be encroached upon and internal affairs interfered. Only when the Tatmadaw is strong will the nation be strong.

The Tatmadaw has to react in concert with the people any attempts to disparage the dignity of the country and the prestige of the Tatmadaw.

The Tatmadaw's victory over Sisiwan-Tarpang battle had been due to the cooperation of national people. Indivisible are the Tatmadaw and the people just as a saying goes, 'No line can be drawn in water'.



The artillery unit giving supporting fire for Tatmadaw members in Sisiwan-Tarpang battle.

gents' headquarters. We saw that some 30 buildings of the insurgents were ablaze. We flew four PC-7 aircraft equipping ourselves with bombs, rockets and machineguns to launch air raids on

At that time, we could not clearly see the targets on the ground because of bad weather and the clouds. So, we flew under the clouds.

As the fighter planes of the Tatmadaw (Air) gave

Tatmadawmen felt reluctant to sacrifice their lives for that purpose. It is man that shall die one day. We, Tatmadawmen, have deemed it noble to die in action for the country and



Tatmadaw members celebrate their victory over the insurgents at Tarpang camp after reoccupying Sisiwan-Tarpang on 9 December 1986.

Migyaunggon, Zaw Win Gon and Yinhsainggon. From the ground, the insurgents made intense surface-to-air fire with 0.5 machineguns. Without considering the danger to our lives, we exchanged heavy fire with the insurgents.

Finally, we could destroy the insurgents' artillery camp after a direct hit of the camp.

Meanwhile, Capt Htay Aung from PC-7 No 4 plane sent a message that the hull of the No 3 plane piloted by Capt Tint Ko and Capt Myo Myint caught fire. They were right. The plane was found

supporting fire every day while the ground troops of the Tatmadaw launched daring attacks, the Tatmadaw could take control of Myinhtan village, Kyugok (Panhsaing) and the whole Sisiwan-Tarpang region on 9 January 1987.

Q — I salute the courage and sacrifice you all showed in an unyielding spirit although knowing that you all were to face mortal dangers. So, could you tell me something about the medals awarded by the State?

A — That's what is called the fine traditions of

the people.

Besides loyalty to the country, obedience, determination, courage and discipline of all the Tatmadawmen involved in that entire military operation, the support of the local people and the people's militia, the Red Cross brigade and the fire brigade were all that put an end to the 40-year-long armed revolt of BCP against the country.

Q — Could you explain the important role of the armed forces in a country?

A — The role of the armed forces is very crucial for a country. Still notice-

Born of the people, the Tatmadawmen with daring spirit did crush and overcome every danger encroaching upon the integrity and sovereignty of the country.

With the ten strengths—loyalty, obedience, strong morale and perseverance, good discipline, being well-trained, possessing brilliant combat skill, healthiness and fitness, having esprit de corps, making sacrifices, and endeavouring to meet the aim with strong determination, the Tatmadaw wins victories always.

Translation: MS + KTY

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

Poem

Pride that is his

- * While engaged in studies
The battle-cry overwhelm the ear
Taking it as necessity for the nation
Went to the battleground, this youth.
- * Felt comfort in war, though it took long
Intruding enemies, those insurgents
To crush them all, with a vow
Continued to find comfort in battle
By time, he became middle-aged.
- * Two stations in life
With no self-interest, serving the nation
Long military service, leading to a time
With many war-wounds, one hand
sacrificed.
Satisfactorily allowed to retire.
- * War veteran Grandad
Had sacrificed his young life
Pride of education
He had none, handicapped.
- * War veteran Grandad
Was dutiful in his youth
Pride of property
He had none, bereft.
- * O, War Veteran Grandad
Self-sacrificed, for whole life
Inadequate education, propertyless
Morale undeterred, if need arises
Will take up arms, in service of nation
In all his life, Pride of Patriotism
This he had, this is his.

Ko (Tekkatho) (Trs)



Map showing Sisiwan-Tarpang battle.

Cash donated to hospitals and social organizations

YANGON, 18 March — As a gesture of honouring the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the families of the All-Bus Lines Control Committee (Yangon) donated cash to the funds of all-round renovation of Maha Wizaya Pagoda, Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda, hospitals and social organizations at a ceremony held at Dhamma Rakkhita Dhammayon at Maha Wizaya Pagoda this afternoon. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe attended the ceremony and accepted the donations.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Wai Lwin, commanders of military regions, local authorities, personnel from hospitals concerned, Chairman of ALCC (Yangon) Brig-Gen Myint Swe (Rtd), officials and guests. Brig-Gen Myint Swe (Rtd) explained the purposes of making donations. Donations made to the funds of all-round renovation of Maha Wizaya Pagoda were: K 4 million by bus owners of ALCC (Yangon); K 1,001,622 by ALCC (Yangon); and K 7.7 million by U Kyaw Aye and Daw Khin Nyunt. Donations made to Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) were: K 2.2 million by bus owners of ALCC (Yangon) and K 500,000 by ALCC



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepts cash donation from a wellwisher. — MNA

(Yangon). Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepted the donations. ALCC (Yangon) also donated K 300,000 each to Defence Services General Hospital (Mingaladon), No 2 Military Hospital (500-bed), Yangon People's Hospital, Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital, North Okkalapa People's Hospital, Insein People's Hospital, and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central); K 150,000 each to Defence Services Obstetric, Gynaecological and Paediatric Hospital, Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital, Defence Services Physical Rehabilitation Hospital, Yangon People's Hospital, Kyimyindine Orthopaedic Hospital, and Paediatric Hospital; K 100,000 each to

Hlinethaya People's Hospital, Dagon Myothit (North) People's Hospital, Dagon Myothit (South) People's Hospital, Parahita boys' school, Hninzigon home for the aged, Mary Chapin School, Khawechan Christian School for the Blind, Mayanchaung Parahita Geha, the Station Hospital at Mayanchaung village, Jivatadana Sangha Hospital and Free Service Association for Funeral (Yangon); and K 50,000 each to Shwepyitha People's Hospital, Hmawby People's Hospital, Hlegu People's Hospital and Dapein Station Hospital.

Medical Superintendent of North Okkalapa People's Hospital Dr Mya Thauang spoke words of thanks. Today's donations amounted to K 20,201,622. — MNA

Commander, Minister open Myat Yadana railway station in Thanlyin

YANGON, 18 March— Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to open Myat Yadana railway station in Thanlyin Township was held at the station at 7 am today. Present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Minister U Pe Than, No 1 Military Region Commander Col Tun Kyi, Myanmar Railways Managing Director U Min Swe and officials, local authorities and social organization members. Nay La General Trading Cooperative Society Ltd Myat Yadana Housing Project Committee Chairman U Myint Oo who built the station explained the purpose of building the station and handed over documents related to the station to Managing Director U Min Swe of MR.

Next, the wellwisher presented commemorative pennants to the commander, the minister and the district chairman. Managing Director U Min Swe and wellwisher U Myint Oo formally opened the station. Myat Yadana Railway Station lies on Okposu-Thilawa railroad in Aungchantha Ward, Thanlyin. On arrival at Myat Yadana Housing Project office, Project Chairman U Myint Oo reported on construction of housing estates jointly carried out by Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development and Myat Yadana Housing Project. Later, the commander gave necessary instructions. — MNA

66 Italian tourists arrive

YANGON, 18 March— Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, assistance provided by the Ministry of Transport and organized by Myanmar Kipling Tours Co Ltd, a chartered plane carrying 66 tourists arrived at Yangon International Airport from Milan of Italy at 12 noon today. They were welcomed there by officials of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Myanmar Kipling Tours Co Ltd and traditional cultural troupes of Myanmar Tourism Service. While in Myanmar, the tourists will visit Yangon, Bago, Mandalay, Poba, Bagan, Heho, Pindaya and Inlay. — MNA

Tubewells opened for rural development

YANGON, 18 March— Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, ceremonies to open tube-wells in Thanlyin Township were held at the designated places this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe. Also present on the occasions were Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi, Director of Yangon Division Development Affairs Committee U Kyan Daing Aung and departmental officials, local authorities and people. First, the 2" tube-well was opened in Kyaik-in Village. The commander opened the tap of the tube-well. It was a 2-inch diameter and 220 feet deep tube-well which can pump out 2,000 gallons an hour. It was installed with 7.25 Hp diesel engine.

A similar ceremony was held in Myayayoe Village, Thanlyin Township, to open a 2-inch diameter and 280 feet deep tube-well. The tube-well installed with 7.25 Hp engine can produce 2,000 gallons an hour. Next, the commander and party arrived at the construction site of Kawdun Creek Bridge on the road linking Pandaw Kyaukmaye Jetty and Thande Village in Kyauktan Township. The commander heard reports on construction of the bridge and gave necessary instructions. On completion, Pandaw Village can access to Mayanbay Village in Kyauktan Township by car through the beach.

The commander inspected Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in Zweba Kondan Village and gave necessary instructions. Afterwards, the commander saw over the site for construction of 16-bed Meepya Station Hospital. In Meepya Village, the commander inspected development tasks of the village. Next, he accepted K 200,000 each for construction of the hospital donated by Daw Kyin Kha of Meepya Village; U Kyauk Khe-Daw Kyin Ngwe of Kyauktan; and U Ar Loo-Daw Saw Kyu. Later, the commander paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññavamsa of Kyaunggyi Monastery in Meepya Village. — MNA

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:



Book Fair

Sarpay Beikman

378,384 Upper Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Yangon
(former PPE head office)
19 to 28 March 2004 (from 9 am to 5 pm)

Thagaung Taman magazine comes out

YANGON, 18 March— Thagaung Taman (Envoy, the good son of the nation), annual magazine of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs came out on 17-3-2004. It includes significant features of Ko (Tekkatho), Tekkatho Min Maw, Myinmu Maung Naing Moe, Maung Chan Aye, Maung Cheint (Thagara), Sithu Nyein Aye, Thura U Aung Htet, Dr Khin Maung Win, Dr Kyaw Sein, Hla Tun (Twantay), Thauang Oo, Aye Kyaw Lwin together with excellent works of cartoonists Maung Maung, Pozar, Swe Min (Danubyu) and Thant Zin. — MNA

Myanmar Trade Fair 2004 to be held

YANGON, 18 March — With the permission of the Ministry of Commerce, Quartz Int'l Co Ltd will organize Myanmar Trade Fair 2004 at Yangon Trade Centre from 2 to 5 April. On display at the fair will be local and foreign cosmetics and consumer's goods, textiles, plastics, foodstuff, electric and electronic appliances, construction materials, household utensils, paper, stationery, packing machines, small machinery and traditional and western medicines. — MNA



Jade lots being sold through competitive bidding at the 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium. (News on page 2) — MNA



26th ISD Golf Team Championship continues

YANGON, 18 March— The 26th Inter-State/Division Golf Team Championship, organized by Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Golf Federation and mainly sponsored by Isuzu Motors Ltd of Japan, continued for the third round at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingon, this morning.

Yangon Division team was leading the team scratch event with 682 strokes. Its runners-up were Shan State (East) team with 691 and Sagaing Division team with 702.

In the individual scratch event, Naing Naing Lin of Yangon Division stood in the first position with 223 strokes; Hla Myo of Yangon Division scored 228; Aung Win of Sagaing Division and Maj Khin Zaw Win of Shan State (East) tied at 229.

In the team handicap event, Yangon Division team and Mon State team tied in the leading position with 617 strokes, Shan State (East) with 627 in the second place and Mandalay Division team with 628 in the third.

In the individual handicap event, Hla Win of Mon State stood in the first position after firing 202 strokes, followed by Ar Kyaw of Mandalay Division and Zaw Win of Mon State with 204 each and Hla Myo of Yangon Division and Eike Htaung of Shan State (East) 205 each.

The fourth and final round will take place tomorrow at the same venue. — MNA



Naing Naing Lin of Yangon Division takes part in the 26th ISD Golf Team Championship. — MGF



General Thura Shwe Mann views oil palm nursery of Yuzana Co Ltd in Khamaukyi.—MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann inspects new oil palm oil mill of Shwe Oil Palm Co Ltd in Kawthoung Township.—MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann inspects oil palm cultivation projects in Taninthayi...

(from page 16)

On arrival at Myeik in the evening, General Thura Shwe Mann and Party were welcomed by Deputy Commander of Coastal Region Command Col Hone Ngaing, local authorities and departmental officials.

On 16 March morning, the General and party proceeded to Katan Island of Kyunsu Township from Myeik. At the hall of State-owned Katan Rubber Farm of Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise, Township Manager U Chit Shein and Farm Manager U Myint Swe reported on Katan Rubber Farm, age of plantations, production of rubber and workers of the farm. The General gave necessary instructions.

Next, the General and party inspected production

of rubber from the rubber trees.

Afterwards, they went to State-owned Nyaungbinkwin Rubber and Oil Palm Farm of MPCE in Taninthayi Township.

At the hall, the farm manager reported on matters related to Nyaungbinkwin Rubber and Oil Palm Farm and the entrepreneurs on growing of oil palm in Nyaungbinkwin region. The General gave necessary instructions.

At 11.45 am, the General and party arrived at the site of Kanbawza Agro-Industries Ltd which is carrying out oil palm cultivation tasks in Taninthayi Township.

At the briefing hall, Managing Director U Zaw Win Naing of Kanbawza Agro-Industries Ltd reported on oil palm

growing project and Project Director U Than Pe on growing of oil palm since 1999, cultivated acres and preparations for building the raw oil mill.

Managing Director U Myint Oo of MPCE reported on attention to be paid on cultivation of oil palm and the commander gave a supplementary report.

After giving necessary instructions, the General signed in the visitors' book and inspected fruit bunches of oil palm from the plantations of Kanbawza Agro-Industries Ltd. Next, the General and party viewed thriving oil palm plantations of Kanbawza Agro-Industries Ltd.

Kanbawza Agro-Industries Ltd has targeted to extend cultivation of 20,000 acres of oil palm

plantations and has planted over 5,000 acres of oil palm plantations. In addition, the company manages to build the raw oil mill which can crush three tons of palm oil fruits an hour.

At the oil palm plantation project of Asia World Integrated Farms Ltd in Myeik Township, the General and party heard a report on plantation of oil palm at Khonmaw and Tonbyawgyi villages on Myeik-Taninthayi road, plantation of 3,300 acres of the target of 10,000 acres, plans to put the crops on the remaining acres and rodent control measures presented by Managing Director of the company U Tun Myint Naing and Manager U Wunna.

Managing Director of Myan Naing Myint Company U Maung Maung

Myint reported to them on plans to cultivate oil palm in Taninthayi Township and putting of 2,300 acres of land under the oil palm.

Speaking on the occasion, General Thura Shwe Mann said he has already inspected the oil palm cultivation projects of national race companies in Kawthoung, Bokpyin, Taninthayi and Myeik townships.

The climatic and geographical condition of the Taninthayi Division is suitable to grow oil palm. In this regard, the head of State has given guidance to turn Taninthayi Division into an oil bowl of the nation.

The capital requirement, difficulties and benefits of the business have already been studied. Thus, the national

entrepreneurs can take part in the business depending on their enthusiasm and capacity.

The government will provide assistance for the entrepreneurs in land reclamation and other matters to the best of its ability.

Officials of the private companies presented reports on company-wise plantation projects and feasibility programmes.

The managing director of Myan Naing Myint Company explained arrangements to form an organization for oil palm plantation entrepreneurs. Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin gave a supplementary report.

The General looked into their requirements.

MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann hears reports on oil palm plantations by Asia World Integrated Farms Ltd Managing Director U Tun Myint Naing in Myeik.—MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann hears tasks of State-owned Nyaungbinkwin rubber and oil palm farm by an official.—MNA

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
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ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

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ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများဝေါ်ယူခြင်း

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၁	တိရစ္ဆာန်အစားအစာကုန်ကြမ်း၊ ပြည့်စုံရွက်ဆေးပါးနှင့်ပိန်အိတ်ခွံများ	1 Lot
၂	သတင်းစာစက္ကူများ (News print paper)	10000. Reams

ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများကို ၂၄-၃-၂၀၀၄ ရက်နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀)နာရီအချိန် နောက်ဆုံးထား၍ တင်သွင်းရန်ပြုပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်သိရှိလိုပါက ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့်ပေးစာရင်းများ၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးဌာနမှ ဖုန်းအမှတ်-၂၈၂၅၃၄၂၂၀၈၁၂၊ လိုင်းခွဲ(၂၃၅)သို့ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဗိုလ်မှူး
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

MNA/Reuters

မညာရူးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



Bollywood actress and former Miss World Yukta Mookhey poses as she unveils the crown designed for the Miss India contest in New Delhi on 17 March, 2004. Twenty-nine finalists from all over India will vie for Miss India crown during the main event on 27 March.—INTERNET

China's first liver transplant patient to give birth

CHENGDU, 18 March—A young Chinese woman who had a liver transplant four years ago will give birth next month.

This will be the first childbirth by a liver transplant patient in China.

The woman, Luo Jiwei, had suffered from sclerosing cholangitis and liver abscesses. When the 25-year-old patient was transferred to Huaxi Hospital in Sichuan Province in September 2000, she was on the verge of death. Without a liver transplant, she would have survived only one month, said Yan Lunan, a physician in charge of the liver transplant operation.

In the wake of group consultation, Luo had a liver

transplant operation in the same month of hospitalization. As the operation was successful, she was discharged from the hospital three weeks later.

After seeking approval from Dr Yan, Luo got married at the end of 2002 and was found pregnant at a routine medical check at the Huaxi Hospital last November.

At present, the mother and foetus are in normal condition. To ensure a safe delivery, obstetricians at the Huaxi Hospital have decided to carry out an operation

called "celiohysterotomy", or womb opening, next month.

Liver transplant is considered the most difficult operation of all organ transplants. Since the first liver transplant was conducted in the United States in 1963, 100,000 patients have undergone the procedure around the world. Thirty-seven have become pregnant after the operation. Huaxi Hospital, one of the five research centres performing liver transplants in China, conducted the first liver transplant in 1979.—MNA/Xinhua

Oklahoma wrong number leads to woman's arrest

OKLAHOMA CITY, 18 March—An Oklahoma woman dialled a wrong number and ended up under arrest after she tried to set up a drug deal with her former parole officer, police said on Tuesday.

Patricia Michel was arrested last Thursday on suspicion of the unlawful distribution of a dangerous controlled substance at her home in Durant, Oklahoma, near the Texas border.

Michel called her former parole officer, Doug Canant, on his cell phone by mistake, thinking he could help set up a deal where she could acquire methamphetamines, police said.

"I am a bit of a joker, so

I was playing along," Canant said in a telephone interview. "She thought she was talking to her local drug dealer."

She told the parole officer she did not have money to buy drugs because she was waiting for her US tax refund and wanted to exchange one type of drug for another, Canant said.

Acting on Canant's tip, the local drug task force sent agents to Michel's house and set up a deal. She handed

over two pills that were controlled substances and instead of getting drugs, she got arrested, police said.

Michel has been released on bond but faces between two years to life in prison if convicted. If she receives parole, she may have Canant as her parole officer again.

"It is a small town and there are only three of us (parole officers). It will be the luck of the draw," Canant said.—MNA/Reuters

China speeds up eradication of solid clay bricks

BELING, 18 March—Four central government ministries have jointly released a circular demanding China's local governments speed up moves to ban the use of solid clay bricks in construction.

The rapid growth in construction has caused a boom in demand for bricks, which led to other problems such as soil loss, air pollution and energy waste.

The ban on the use of solid clay bricks aims to protect limited land resources and the environment. The government has strictly limited the use of farmland for kilns since 1998.

The government initiated in 2000 the ban on solid

clay bricks and tiles in new buildings in all municipalities, large and mid-sized cities in coastal areas, and cities in provinces where per capita farmland is less than 0.053 hectares.

Most cities had implemented the ban, but a few had failed to achieve the goal, said an official of the State Development and Reform Commission.

The next 20 years would be a crucial time for China to

construct a well-off society, which would produce a huge demand for building materials, so the ban on solid clay bricks was urgently required, he said.

The circular said cities that had met the goal should extend the ban to the other kinds of clay bricks, and cities which fail to meet the goal should do so by the end of the year.

Studies show that using hollow bricks, recycled

waste and other new building materials instead of solid clay bricks can save 47 per cent of the energy in producing wall materials and 30 to 50 per cent of the heating energy of dwellings.

China has totally closed about 6,000 small brick kilns. Compared with 26 per cent in 1999, new materials now account for 35 per cent of the total wall materials in China.—MNA/Xinhua

Two killed as plane crashes into house in US

LOS ANGELES, 18 March — A single-engine plane on final approach to Santa Monica Airport in the western US state of California crashed into a house near Los Angeles on Tuesday, killing at least two people aboard.

Authorities said the crash, igniting a large fire that gutted the residence in fog-bound Mar Vista, occurred at about 5:00 pm local time.

The four-seat low-winged Mooney Mark 20, which reportedly clipped a roofline, then crashed into a rear bedroom at the residence, was said to have been inbound to Santa Monica from Mammoth.—MNA/Xinhua

US space race titan William Pickering dead at 93

LOS ANGELES, 18 March — William H Pickering, a central figure in the early US space race who as director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory played a key role in launching America's first satellite into orbit, has died at age 93, NASA said here.

Pickering, affectionately known as "Mr. JPL" and one of the few scientists to appear twice on the cover of Time magazine, died of pneumonia on Monday at his home in La Canada Flintridge, California, not far from the laboratory where he helped lay the groundwork for robotic exploration of the moon and planets.

"Dr Pickering was one of the titans of our nation's space programme," said Charles Elachi, the current director of JPL, the NASA facility managed by the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California. "It was his leadership that took America into space and opened up the moon and the planets to the world."

MNA/Reuters

Haiti's PM appoints government

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Haiti), 18 March—Haiti's new Prime Minister picked a Cabinet on Tuesday that excludes allies of ousted president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a source close to the new government said.

"The government has been selected this afternoon," an aide to Prime Minister Gerard Latortue told Reuters. He gave no further information except to say it would be sworn in on Wednesday afternoon at the National Palace.

Sources close to the new

Prime Minister said not one of the 13 ministries was handed to members of Aristide's Lavalas Family Party, a move likely to fire up anger among his supporters and prolong tensions in the revolt-torn country.

MNA/Reuters

Chavez refuses to recognize Haiti's new gov't

CARACAS, 18 March—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez announced Tuesday that his government will not recognize Haiti's new government and offered asylum for ousted president Jean Bertrand Aristide.

Chavez made the statement at the closing ceremony of a health ministers meeting of the Andean Group.

Chavez said Aristide was Haiti's legitimate president elected by his people, and the Venezuela administration will not recognize the government led by interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue.

The President voiced support for Jamaican Prime Minister Percival Patterson, who offered Aristide a visit of up to 10 weeks to Jamaica, stressing "the doors of Venezuela are open" for Aristide.

Aristide went into exile in the Central African Republic on February 29 amid a popular uprising led by rebels aimed at toppling the former president.

Chavez backed Aristide's claims that he had been abducted by the United States and forced to step down. He also criticized the Organization of American States (OAS) for keeping silent toward the Haiti issue, calling on the people in the Caribbean countries to defend their own dignity.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

United's Fortune faces claim from former agent

CAPE TOWN, 18 March—A claim against Manchester United's Quinton Fortune by his former agent resumes in a Cape Town High Court on Wednesday as Colin Gie seeking 20 per cent of the midfielder's earnings. Gie, who acted as Fortune's agent for more than a decade before they split last year, wants the South African international to honour a management agreement in which he claims he is entitled to a fifth of Fortune's income.

But Fortune, who split from his agent last year, is opposing the action. The 26-year-old is not expected to be in court despite being out of action for United following knee surgery.

Earlier this month, Fortune's legal team argued the agreement was in conflict with standard regulations. Under FIFA rules agents were only entitled to a two-year contract with a player and five per cent remuneration after taxation, they said.

Gie, who discovered Fortune as a teenager in Cape Town's tough Kewlands neighbourhood, is insisting he had a 15-year deal, which was signed in May 1998. —MNA/Reuters



Limberg Mendez, from Bolivian The Strongest and Jean Pierre (L) from Uruguayan Penarol struggle for the ball during a first half action of their Libertadores cup soccer match, on 16 March, 2004.—INTERNET

Owen scores twice as Liverpool trounce Portsmouth

LONDON, 18 March—Liverpool and Michael Owen put their run of poor form behind them as the England striker scored twice in an easy 3-0 home win over relegation strugglers Portsmouth in the Premier League on Wednesday.

The victory takes Liverpool up three places to fifth with 42 points from 28 games as they chase fourth spot and a Champions League place. Portsmouth stay third from bottom with 24 points, two points adrift of Leicester City and the safety zone.

Liverpool were desperate to put on a convincing display after a shock FA Cup replay defeat to Portsmouth, a frustrating draw with Olympique Marseille in the UEFA Cup and a sloppy Premier League loss at Southampton.

But Germany midfielder Hamann settled the home side's nerves with a splendid goal after just six minutes when he met an Owen cross on the volley that flew into the net from 20 metres.

MNA/Reuters



Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium reacts to an out call during her fourth round match against Czech Republic's Barbora Strycova in the Pacific Life Open tennis tournament on 16 March, 2004, in Indian Wells, Calif.

INTERNET

Fiore double gives Lazio Italian Cup final edge

ROME, 18 March—Lazio midfielder Stefano Fiore struck two second-half goals to hand the Rome side a 2-0 home win over Juventus in the first leg of the Italian Cup final on Wednesday.

The Italian international broke the deadlock in the 59th minute, taking advantage of a nod-on by teammate Fernando Couto to volley past keeper Antonio Chimenti. He followed up 10 minutes from time by hooking in from close range to hand Lazio a healthy advantage to take to Turin for the second leg on May 12.

Juventus defender Igor Tudor was shown a straight red card eight minutes from time for a dangerous challenge on Brazilian winger Cesar. Defeat rounded off a torrid eight days for the Italian champions, who last week exited the Champions League and slipped nine points off the top of Serie A by losing 3-1 to leaders AC Milan on Sunday.

Neither side seriously threatened to break the deadlock in a sterile first half at the Olympic Stadium.

MNA/Reuters

Millwall beat Tranmere to reach FA Cup semis

LONDON, 18 March—English First Division club Millwall reached the last four of the FA Cup for the first time in 67 years when they beat Tranmere Rovers 2-1 in a quarterfinal replay at Prenton Park on Tuesday.

Goals from Tim Cahill and Neil Harris in the first 16 minutes were enough to send the London club through to a tie at Old Trafford on April 4 against First Division rivals Sunderland, who beat Millwall 2-1 in the semi-finals in 1937.

Sunderland went on to win the FA Cup for the first time that year but the winner of the tie next month face the daunting task of taking on Manchester United or Arsenal in the final in Cardiff.

The south London club's player manager Dennis Wise, who captured the FA Cup with Wimbledon and twice with Chelsea, said his side should have beaten their Second Division opponents in the first leg 10 days ago, which finished 0-0.

Millwall started the match determined to make up for their profligacy at the New Den.

But once Gary Jones got a goal back for the home side just before halftime, they were left clinging on to their lead as their tenacious opponents searched for an equalizer.

After 11 minutes, Danny Dichio's header put Cahill behind the Tranmere defence and

the Australian midfielder controlled the ball with his first touch and put the ball past John Achterberg with his second.

Dichio was also provider for the second goal five minutes later but if Cahill's effort was route one simplicity itself, Neil Harris' strike was anything but.

Receiving the ball just outside the area from Dichio's chest-down, Harris conjured up a sublime hooked volley that left Dutchman Achterberg with no chance.

Tranmere gradually worked their way back into the tie and Jones provided their reward with a headed goal four minutes before the break from Canadian international Iain Hume's cross.

The home side started the second half the way they finished the first and caused Millwall plenty of problems on the flanks.

Substitute striker Eugene Dadi put their best chance past the post and there was to be no repeat of Tranmere's famous FA Cup quarterfinal comeback of 2001 when they went down 3-0 to Premier League Southampton only to win 4-3.

MNA/Reuters

Zaragoza seal thrilling Cup victory over Real Madrid

BARCELONA, 18 March—Real Zaragoza fought their way back from a goal and a man down to claim an extra-time victory over Real Madrid in a thrilling King's Cup final at the Montjuic Olympic Stadium on Wednesday.

Argentine midfielder Luciano Galletti grabbed the winning goal nine minutes before the end of extra time with a stinging shot from the fringe of the area to give Zaragoza their third Cup triumph in 10 years and put an end to Real's dream of a treble.

England captain David Beckham put Real ahead with a superbly struck free kick midway through the first half, but Zaragoza fought back to take a 2-1 lead before the break thanks to a well taken goal from Dani and a penalty from fellow striker David Villa.

Real equalized from a free kick by Roberto Carlos three minutes after the break and Zaragoza suffered a further setback when they were reduced to 10 men after Cani was sent off in the 67th minute.

But Real could not press home their numerical advantage and they too went a man down when Guti was sent off six minutes into the first period of extra time.

Zaragoza made a brisk start at the Olympic stadium and gave Real an early wake-up call when defender Cani fired a sharp shot into the arms of Cesar inside the first minute.

But Real gradually warmed to the task and with Zinedine Zidane and Santiago Solari to the fore they began to probe the Zaragoza defence. Luis Figo was a constant threat with his jinking runs on the right.

After some sustained pressure Raul won his side a free kick four metres outside the area.

Beckham stepped up and curled an unstoppable shot

inside the post beyond the reach of Lainez, to score his first goal from a free kick in three months.

But the Real fans were still celebrating when Zaragoza hit back with a classy strike from Dani, the former Real Madrid and Barcelona striker cracking into the top corner after controlling a Savio cross with his knee.

Beckham almost put Real ahead once more with a carbon copy of his first free kick five minutes before the break, but this time he skimmed the post with his dipping shot.

Zaragoza rose to the occasion and they took the lead

in the final minute of the first half when Villa scored from the penalty spot after he was felled by Guti as the two challenged for the ball five metres out from the goal.

Real hit back three minutes into the second half with another goal from a free kick, this time Roberto Carlos netting with a trademark rocket shot from 25 metres out to make it 2-2.

Real were denied another soon after when Lainez made an acrobatic fingertip save to turn a Zidane header past the post, but Zaragoza were dealt a major blow with Cani's dismissal for a second booking.—MNA/Reuters



Real Zaragoza's captain Luis Cuartero lifts the Copa del Rey trophy beside Spain's King Juan Carlos after beating Real Madrid 3-2 in the soccer final in Barcelona's Lluis Companys Olympic Stadium on 17 March, 2004.

INTERNET

19-3-2004 (Friday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)

15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting

15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"

15:36 Mon State

15:40 Headline News

15:42 Victories of the State,
the People and the
Tatmadaw "Roads,
Railroads and Bridges
Sector"

15:45 National News

15:55 The Beauty of the 2nd
Defile of The River
Ayeayawady

15:58 Group Dance Entitled
(Pyant Pwa Sein)

16:00 National News

16:05 Inn-Waing Waterfall



7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by
Missionary Sayadaw
U Ottamathara

7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am
5. လုပ်ရားပိုပြင်မိတ်ဖွယ်ခွင့်

8:00 am
6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am
7. The mirror images of the
musical oldies

8:20 am
8. ထွန်းမြင်စေရလှောင်တမ်း

8:30 am
9. International news

8:45 am
10. English for Everyday Use

16:10 Song "We'll Greet You In Mon Language"
16:12 Prospering and Developing Mon State
16:15 National News
16:20 Foreign Correspondents Visit Border Areas (Part-II)
16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
16:30 National News
16:35 Butterfly Garden In Yangon
16:40 Three Dimensional Gems Studded Painting
16:45 National News
16:50 The Art of Making Paper Toys
16:55 Myuu-Kywa-thanzin Kagyo Sin
17:00 National News
17:05 Village of Palaung
17:10 Myanmar Modern Song "We'll Be Waiting For You"
17:12 Traditional Weaving Art
17:15 National News
17:20 Wildlife Conservation In Myanmar
17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

19:30 **(19:30 - 23:30)**
 Signature Tune
 Greeting
 19:32 Song of Myanmar
 Beauty & Scenic
 Sights "Myanma Pano-
 rama & Myanma Sen-
 timent"
 19:36 Victories of the State,
 the People and the
 Tatmadaw "Education
 Sector"
 19:40 **Headline News**
 19:42 Aungpan Oranges
 19:45 **National News**
 19:50 The Beauty of the 1st
 Defile of the River
 Ayeeyawady
 19:55 The Unforgettable
 Bonfire Dance
 20:00 **National News**
 20:05 Rakhine Ordination
 Novitiation & Ear-bor-
 ing Auspicious Cere-
 mony
 20:10 Myanmar Modern
 Song "Sumpurabum"
 20:15 **National News**
 20:20 Foreign Correspond-
 ents Visit Border
 Areas (Part-1)

20:25	Songs "Treasure Land"
20:30	National News
20:35	Oboe: Myanma Musical Instrument
20:40	A Village of Pa-O
20:45	National News
20:50	Myanma Traditional Flower Arrangements (Decoration with Glaze)
20:55	Magnificent Pindaing-san Dance
21:00	National News
21:05	Myanmar Elephants from Myanma Forest
21:10	Song "Blue Moon"
21:15	National News
21:20	Beauty of the Woman of Myamar (Pre-War Period)
21:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar" Mon State
21:35	
21:40	Headline News
21:42	Victories of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw "Roads, Railroads and Bridges Sector"
21:45	National News
21:50	The Beauty of the 2nd Deifle of The River Ayeayawady
21:55	Group Dance Entitled (Pyant Pwa Sein)
22:00	National News
22:05	Inn-Waung Waterfall
22:10	Song "We'll Greet You In Mon Language"
22:12	Prospering and Developing Mon State
22:15	National News
22:20	Foreign Correspondents Visit Border Areas (Part-II)
22:25	Song on Screen "With a Weak Point"
22:30	National News
22:35	Butterfly Garden In Yangon
22:40	Three Dimensional Gems Studded Painting
22:45	National News
22:50	The Art of Making Paper Toys
22:55	Myuu-Kywa-thanzin Kagyo Sin
23:00	National News
23:05	Village of Palauag
23:10	Myanmar Modern Song "We'll Be Waiting For You"
23:12	Traditional Weaving Art
23:15	National News
23:20	Wildlife Conservation In Myanmar
23:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic

Sights "Come and See Myanmar"	
19-3-2004 (Friday) & 20-3-2004 (Saturday) Evening & Morning Transmission (23:30 - 1:30)	
23:30	Signature Tune
	Greeting
23:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
23:36	Mon State
23:40	Headline News
23:42	Victories of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw "Roads, Railroads and Bridges Sector"
23:45	National News
23:55	The Beauty of the 2nd Deffile of The River Ayeayawady
23:58	Gour Dance Entitled (Pyant Pwa Sein)
24:00	National News
00:05	Inn-Waing Waterfall
00:10	Song "We'll Greet You In Mon Language"
00:12	Prospering and Developing Mon State
00:15	National News
00:20	Foreign Correspondents Visit Border Areas (Part-II)
00:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
00:30	National News
00:35	Butterfly Garden In Yangon
00:40	Three Dimensional Gems Studded Painting
00:45	National News
00:50	The Art of Making Paper Toys
00:55	Myu-Kyuwa-thanzin Kgyo Sin
01:00	National News
01:05	Village of Palauag
01:10	Myanmar Modern Song "We'll Be Waiting For You"
01:12	Traditional Weaving Art
01:15	National News
01:20	Wildlife Conservation In Myanmar
01:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"
20-3-2004 (Saturday) Morning Transmission (03:30-07:30)	
03:30	Signature Tune
	Greeting

03:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Pano- rama & Myanma Sen- timent"
03:36	Victories of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw "Education Sector"
03:40	Headline News
03:42	Aungpan Oranges
03:45	National News
03:50	The Beauty of the 1st Defile of the River Ayeyawady
03:55	The Unforgettable Bonfire Dance
04:00	National News
04:05	Rakhine Ordination Novitiation & Ear-bor- ing Auspicious Cere- mony
04:10	Myanmar Modern Song "Sunprabum"
04:15	National News
04:20	Foreign Correspond- ents Visit Border Areas (Part-I)
04:25	Song "Treasure Land"
04:30	National News
04:35	Oboe: Myanmar Musi- cal Instrument
04:40	A Village of Pa-O
04:45	National News
04:50	Myanma Traditional Flower Arrangements (Decoration with Glaze)
04:55	Magnificent Pindaig- san Dance
05:00	National News
05:05	Myanmar Elephants from Myanma Forest
05:10	Song "Blue Moon"
05:15	National News
05:20	Beauty of the Woman of Myamar (Pre-War Period)
05:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic

05:35	Sights "Mingalabar" Mon State
05:40	Headline News
05:42	Victories of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw "Roads, Railroads and Bridges" Sector
05:45	National News
05:50	The Beauty of the 2nd Deffile of The River Ayeawaydy
05:55	Dance Entitled (Pyant Pwa Sein)
06:00	National News
06:05	Inn-Waung Waterfall Song "We'll Greet You In Mon Language"
06:10	Prospering and Developing Mon State
06:15	National News
06:20	Foreign Correspondents Visit Border Areas (Part-II)
06:25	Song on Screen "With a Weak Point"
06:30	National News
06:35	Butterfly Garden In Yangon
06:40	Three Dimensional Gems Studded Painting
06:45	National News
06:50	The Art of Making Paper Toys
06:55	Myuu-Kywa-thanzin Kago Sin
07:00	National News
07:05	Village of Palauung
07:10	Myanmar Modern Song "We'll be Waiting For You"
07:12	Traditional Weaving Art
07:15	National News
07:20	Wildlife Conservation In Myanmar
07:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

[illegible]

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Shan State and upper Sagaing Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine, Kayin State and Ayeyawady, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, (4°C) below normal in upper Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 17-3-2004 was 38.0°C (100°F). Minimum temperature on 18-3-2004 was 17.5°C (64°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 18-3-2004 was 69%. Total sun shine hours on 17-3-2004 was (9.3) hours approx. Rainfall on 18-3-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 15 mph from South at 18:00 hours MST on 18-3-2004.

Inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 19-3-2004: Except for possibility of isolated rain in Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Weather will be generally fair in the whole country. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-3-2004:** Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-3-2004:** Partly cloudy.

4:00 pm
1. Martial song
—ဇော်တက္ကသိုလ်စိုလ်စောသ်သင်တန်း
အမှတ်စဉ်(၄၆)သင်တန်းဆင်ရဲ၌
တပ်မတော်ကကွယ်ရေဦးစီးချုပ်
ဇီလိယံဗိုလ်ကြီးသန့်ဦး ခြောက်သည့်
မိန့်ခွင့်မှတောက်ခတ်ချက်

4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit

4:30 pm
3. Practice in Reading

4:45 pm
4. တပ်မတော်မှ ကပ်ပြောသီချင်းဖြင့်ပုံ
ဆွဲရတော့များ (၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်)

5:00 pm
အစောသင်တက္ကသိုလ်သညာရ
ရုပ်ပြသ်ကြားသင်စနစ်
တတိယနွှစ် (စာတုစာအုပ်)
(စာတုစာ)

5:15 pm
6. Song of national races

5:30 pm
7. နှဉ်းစနစ်မှန်မှန်အားကစားအခြေခံ

5:45 pm
8. Song of yesteryears

6:00 pm
9. Musical programme

6:15 pm
10. Discovery

6:30 pm
11. Evening news

7:00 pm
12. Weather report

7:05 pm
13. “နိုင်ငံခြားစာတတ်လိမ့်တဲ့”
“နီးနတ်မယ်” (အစဉ်-၈)

7:35 pm
14. (၅၉) နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့၊
ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

7:45 pm
15. နေတက္ကသိုလ်ဖိုလ်လောင်းသင်တန်း၊
အမှတ်(၁)၊(၄၆)သင်တန်းသင်ပွဲ၌
တပ်မတော်ကွပ်ကဲရေးဦးစီးချုပ်
ဗိုလ်ချုပ်မှူးကြီးသန့်ရွှေလူကြားသည့်
မိန့်စုနီးမှစကောန်နတ်ချက်
“ပြည်သူ့အထွက် တပ်မတော်”
“ပြည်သူ့အထွက်တပ်မတော်အသံဖိုရီရန်ကုန်
တို.ဝန်ထု” (ယဉ္ဇာတရ၊ဝန်ကြီးဌာန)
ပြည်ထောင်စု၌မြို့ပြတိုက်
တပ်မတော်အစိုးရတပ်သတ်
-သမ္မတလေးချက်သင်ပွဲနက်သို့၊
(ရဲဘော်စစ်မောင်လှ၊မြို့မိန့်
စင်မောင်ညွန့်)

8:00 pm
16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. “ခေတ်ရန်ကုန်”
နေအောင်၊နေအောင်၊နေအောင်၊နေအောင်၊
မြသောဝါ(၁)ရက်တာ-သက်တာ(၁)
20. The next day's
programme



8.30 am	Brief news
8.35 am	Music
8.40 am	Perspectives
8.45 am	Music
8.50 am	National news/ Slogan
9.00 am	Music
9.05 am	International news
9.10 am	Music
1.30 pm	News/Slogan
1.40 pm	Lunch time music -To be with you (Mr Big) -2 become 1 (Spice Girls)
9.00 pm	Special talk: "Tatmadaw which people loved"
9.15 pm	Article /Music
9.25 pm	Music at your request -A love of a life time (Firehouse) -Simple things (Amy Grant)
9.45 pm	News/Slogan
10.00 pm	PEI



General Thura Shwe Mann inspects oil palm plantations of Po Kaung Co Ltd in Bokpyin Township.— MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann inspects...

(from page 1)

crush five tons an hour is located at 18th mile in Kawthoung Township.

First, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Shwe Oil Palm Co Ltd Managing Director Dr Ko Ko Htwe formally opened the factory.

The General performed the rituals of golden and silver showers to mark the opening ceremony and inspected the factory.

Next, the General greeted members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations, dance troupes and students who attended the opening ceremony.

At the briefing hall, Dr Ko Ko Htwe reported on production of bunches of oil palm from their farm at 18th mile of Kawthoung and construction of the factory.

Tetnay Co Managing Director Daw Than Than Aye reported on implementation of oil palm plantation project and running of the crude palm oil mill.

After hearing the reports, General Thura Shwe Mann gave necessary instructions and signed in the visitors' book of Shwe Oil Palm Co Ltd.

Afterwards, the General and party proceeded to Khamaukgyi region of Kawthoung Township and viewed progress of oil palm

plantations along the road.

General Thura Shwe Mann and party inspected the oil palm farm of Yuzana Co Ltd in Khamaukgyi. Chairman of the company U Htay Myint reported on participation of the company in the oil palm project launched in Taninthayi Division in 1999, progress of area in planting oil palm, arrangements for construction of a crude palm oil mill and investments.

Next, the General delivered a speech. In his speech, the General said that oil palm project is beneficial to the entrepreneurs and the State. He said he made an inspection tour of Taninthayi Division to draw the interest of other entrepreneurs in oil palm industry after witnessing the thriving oil palm plantations and good prospects of national entrepreneurs.

The national entrepreneurs in the division presented their experiences of oil palm industry and benefits.

Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported on plans to establish hydropower plants which can contribute towards regional development and oil palm industry in the sites adjacent to oil palm projects.

The General and party looked into the oil palm

farm of Yuzana Co Ltd. In the afternoon, the General and party helicoptered to the oil palm farm of Po Kaung Co Ltd at 60th mile station in Bokpyin Township. Chairman of the company U Aye Maung reported on

tions, and signed in the visitors' book. Afterwards, the General inspected the oil palm farm.

The General and party headed for Taungdagon Oil Palm Co in Mahe Camp in Bokpyin Township and in-

ture tasks. Lt-Gen Tin Aye and the ministers gave suggestions on the oil mill.

General Thura Shwe Mann discussed investments, covering of the capital and economic prospects. U Aung Htwe and entrepreneurs re-

ported on their business. Next, the General and party left Mahe Camp in Bokpyin Township for Myeik and inspected progress of oil palm plantations of the entrepreneurs by helicopter.

(See page 11)



General Thura Shwe Mann sees over production of crude palm oil mill of South Dagon Oil Palm Co which can produce 7.5 tons per a day in Mahe Camp, Bokpyin Township.—MNA

target of planting oil palm on 7,000 acres in the township, progress in growing oil palm on over 5,000 acres and preparations for building crude palm oil mill. Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint gave a supplementary report.

Regarding the reports, the General gave instruc-

spected the crude palm oil mill that can mill 7.5 tons of crude palm oil.

At the briefing hall, South Dagon Oil Palm Co Managing Director U Aung Htwe reported on planting of over 4,500 acres of oil palm in Bokpyin Township, progress in building the crude oil palm mill and fu-

Myanmar Tatmadaw football and volleyball teams arrive back

YANGON, 18 March— Myanmar Tatmadaw football and volleyball teams led by Col Aung San Tin of the Adjutant-General's Office of the Ministry of Defence, which took part in the friendly matches in India,

arrived back here by air at 7 pm today.

Chairman of Defence Services Sports and Physical Education Management Committee Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein welcomed back Myanmar Tatmadaw football and volleyball teams at Mingaladon Air Base.

Also present on the occasion were Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun, Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Director of Medical Service Col Than Aung of the Ministry of Defence, Director of Resettlements Maj-Gen Aung Thein, Provost Marshal Maj-Gen Saw Hla, officials of the Tatmadaw Football and Volleyball Subcommittee and Indian Military Attaché Col Jasvinder Singh Chopra.— MNA



Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein welcomes back Myanmar Tatmadaw football and volleyball teams at the airport.— MNA